



CITY OF DURHAM | NORTH CAROLINA

Date: August 5, 2014
To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: W. Bowman, Deputy City Manager
From: Donald F. Greeley, Director, Water Management
Subject: Approval of the 2012 Local Water Supply Plan for the City of Durham

Executive Summary

In 1989, the North Carolina General Assembly passed General Statute 143-355 requiring each public water provider in North Carolina to develop and submit a Local Water Supply Plan (LWSP) to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The first plan was due for the year 1992 and updated plans were to be submitted every five years. Durham submitted the initial 1992 plan as well the required updates in 1997 and 2002, receiving approval by DENR for each prior to having City Council approve and adopt by resolution. The most recent five-year plan update for calendar year 2012 was submitted by the due date of April 1, 2013; however the official review by the state was not completed until June 2014. Staff was notified by letter that the required information was complete and the LWSP meets the minimum criteria for content established by GS 143-355.

In order to meet all requirements of the statute, the governing body must approve the plan and the adopted resolution must be submitted to DENR for the LWSP to be considered compliant.

Recommendation

The department recommends that the City Council adopt the resolution approving the 2012 Water Supply Plan for the City of Durham.

Background

In 1989, the North Carolina General Assembly passed General Statute 143-355 requiring each public water provider in North Carolina to develop and submit a Local Water Supply Plan (LWSP) to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The goal of the statute was twofold: 1) the State wanted to ensure that North Carolina water providers were planning, either as a single unit or with others, adequately to meet the water source needs of their growing communities, and 2) that appropriate and up-to-date information was submitted to DENR to develop a statewide water supply plan.

The plans describe general system information such as current water supply sources and treatment plant capacities, population served, water consumption by customer sector and wastewater discharges. Plans must also forecast water demand projections for a 20 to 40 year horizon based on anticipated growth in the service area, estimating population to be served, consumption by sector and wastewater discharges based on best available data. Any additional water supplies and their yields must also be included, as well as sales and purchases from interconnected utilities. Additionally, plans must include conservation measures, industrial water use and other factors – such as economic conditions – that could impact future water demands.

The first plan was due for the calendar year 1992 and updated plans were to be submitted every five years. Durham submitted the initial 1992 plan as well as the required updates in 1997 and 2002, receiving approval by DENR for each prior to having City Council approve and adopt the updated plans by resolution. During the last several years, DENR has migrated from paper worksheet submittals to online submittals. They have also required the submittal of annual Water Supply System Reports which are almost as comprehensive as the LWSP. Both the LWSP and the annual system reports are reviewed by DENR but only the formal, every five year plans require official approval and adoption by local governing boards.

The most recent five-year LWSP plan update for calendar year 2012 was submitted by the due date of April 1, 2013 meeting DENR requirements; however the official review of the 2012 LWSP by the state was not completed until June 2014. Staff was notified by letter that the required information was complete and that the 2012 LWSP meets the minimum criteria for content established by GS 143-355. In order to meet all requirements of the statute, the governing body must approve the plan and the adopted resolution must be submitted to DENR for the LWSP to be considered compliant.

Issues/Analysis

The information contained in the 2012 Local Water Supply Plan for the City of Durham is based on best available data. The information is consistent with planning activities conducted as a part of the Jordan Lake Partnership Regional Water Supply Plan. Since the last official LWSP, staff has critically evaluated usage patterns and the 2012 plan reflects changes in customer usage and population. These factors have resulted in moderate changes to water demands and wastewater discharges but do not substantially alter the City's long range plans for future water supplies such as use of Teer Quarry and the need for an additional allocation from Jordan Lake.

Alternatives

The alternative of not adopting the resolution places the City in noncompliance with the requirement of NCGS 143-355 (I).

Financial Impacts

No financial impacts are anticipated.

SDBE Summary

The Ordinance to Promote Equal Opportunity in City Contracting does not apply to this item.

Attachments:

Resolution to Approve 2012 Local Water Supply Plan for the City of Durham
2012 Local Water Supply Plan
Letter from DENR approving 2012 LWSP
NCGS 143-355(I) requiring governing body adoption of LWSPs by resolution